

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

- 1 1. A compute cycle brokering apparatus comprising:
 - 2 a) a network;
 - 3 b) a plurality of machines connected to said network wherein some
 - 4 machines are idle and some machines are busy; and
 - 5 c) a process power broker connected to said network for locating
 - 6 available process power on idle machines and directing pending jobs
 - 7 from busy machines to said idle machines for processing.
- 1 2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the process power broker includes a job
- 2 director for directing job output back to the busy machine for output.
- 1 3. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the process power broker includes a job
- 2 director for directing job output to the first available machine for output.
- 1 4. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the machines are MFPs.
- 1 5. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the machines are printers.
- 1 6. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the network comprises an intranet.
- 1 7. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the network comprises the Internet.
- 1 8. In a network of a plurality of MFPs wherein some MFPs are busy and
- 2 some MFPs are idle, a compute cycle brokering apparatus comprising a
- 3 process power broker that identifies idle MFPs and directs pending jobs
- 4 from busy MFPs to idle MFPs for processing and which further comprises
- 5 a job director for directing job output back to the busy MFP for output.

- 1 9. The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the job director directs the job output to
2 the first available idle MFP for output.
- 1 10. The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the network is the Internet.
- 1 11. The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the MFPs are printers.
- 1 12. A method for compute cycle brokering, the method comprising the steps
2 of:
 - 3 a) providing a network;
 - 4 b) connecting a plurality of MFPs to said network wherein some MFPs
5 are idle and some MFPs are busy; and
 - 6 c) connecting a process power broker to said network for locating
7 available process power on said idle MFPs and directing pending
8 jobs from busy MFPs to said idle MFPs for processing.
- 1 13. The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of providing a job
2 director for directing job output back to the busy MFP for output.
- 1 14. The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of providing a job
2 director for directing job output to the first available MFP for output.
- 1 15. The method of Claim 12 wherein step b) comprises the step of connecting
2 a plurality of printers to the network.
- 1 16. The method of Claim 12, wherein step a) comprises providing an intranet
2 network.
- 1 17. The method of Claim 12, wherein step a) comprises providing an Internet
2 network.

- 1 18. In a network of MFPs, a computer program product for compute cycle
2 brokering, the computer program product comprising:
3 a) instructions for identifying MFPs on the network that are idle and
4 MFPs on the network that are busy; and
5 b) instructions for a process power broker for locating available
6 process power on idle MFPs and directing pending jobs from busy
7 MFPs to idle MFPs for processing.
- 1 19. The computer program product of Claim 18 further comprising instructions
2 for a job director for directing a job output back to the busy MFP for
3 output.
- 1 20. The computer program product of Claim 18 further comprising instructions
2 for a job director for directing a job output to the first available MFP for
3 output.